

South Carolina General Assembly
115th Session, 2003-2004

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Bill 584

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

TO DESIGNATE THE MONTH OF MAY 2003 AS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO RAISE COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND THE NEED FOR APPROPRIATE AND ACCESSIBLE SERVICES FOR ALL PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS.

Whereas, the members of the General Assembly call upon all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools in South Carolina to increase our state's understanding and acceptance of mental illnesses; and

Whereas, mental health is critical for the well-being and vitality of our families, businesses, and communities; and

Whereas, mental illness will strike one in five Americans in a given year regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or economic status; and

Whereas, one in five children suffers from a diagnosable mental or emotional disorder, and one in ten has a serious disorder which, if untreated, can lead to school failure, addiction, and even suicide; and

Whereas, mental disorders, collectively, make mental illness the most prevalent health problem in America today. It is more common than cancer and lung and heart disease combined; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Department of Mental Health observes Mental Health Month each year in May to raise awareness of mental health, mental illness, and insurance discrimination against people with mental illnesses; and

Whereas, the members of the General Assembly commend the South Carolina Department of

Mental Health for its difficult task of educating the public about the often misunderstood issue of mental illness. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly designate the month of May 2003 as Mental Health Month in South Carolina and wish to raise community awareness and understanding of mental illness and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illness.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the South Carolina Department of Mental Health.

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